

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 STR-04 COME-00 SP-02

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COMMERCE:RHAMERSCHLAG

EUR/CAN:DHOLTON

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TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652, N/A

TAGS: ETRD

SUBJECT: REPORTED US-CANADA TRADE NEGOTIATIONS

1. JOURNAL OF COMMERCE IN NOVEMBER 4 ARTICLE BY RICHARD LAWRENCE REPORTED THAT US ADMINISTRATION IS CONSIDERING NEGOTIATING NEW TRADE GROUND RULES WITH CANADA. IN RETURN FOR ASSURANCES ON RAW MATERIAL SUPPLIES, US WOULD EXTEND IMPORT CONCESSIONS ON PRODUCTS OF INTEREST TO CANADA. ARTICLE LEAVES IMPRESSION THAT NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BE BILATERAL ALTHOUGH IT SAYS WHATEVER CONCESSIONS WERE EXTENDED WOULD NOT DISCRIMINATE AGAINST THIRD COUNTRIES. ARTICLE ALSO SAYS A PERMANENT BILATERAL PANEL WILL BE ESTABLISHED TO MONITOR US-CANADIAN TRADE.

2. FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE PROVIDED DEPARTMENT'S
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SPOKESMAN ON AN IF ASKED BASIS FOR NOON PRESS BRIEFING

NOVEMBER 4. Q: IS THERE ANY SUBSTANCE TO THE JOURNAL OF COMMERCE STORY THIS MORNING (NOVEMBER 4) THAT THE U.S. IS CONSIDERING TRADE NEGOTIATIONS WITH CANADA, INCLUDING NEW GROUND RULES ON RAW MATERIAL SUPPLIES, EXPORT TAXES AND SUBSIDIES? A: THE ADMINISTRATION IS NOT CONTEMPLATING GENERAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH CANADA EXCEPT FOR THOSE WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS IN GENEVA. US-CANADIAN TRADE RELATIONS ARE PROBABLY THE CLOSEST OF ANY TWO COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD. FOR THIS REASON ALONE EACH SIDE KEEPS THEM UNDER CONTINUING REVIEW AND SEEKS TO MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE ON THE PAST RECORD OF CLOSE COOPERATION AND CONSULTATION WHEREVER POSSIBLE. INGERSOLL

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